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In re U.S. Patent of:  
Mizuki Muramatsu  
Application No. 09/516,969  
Filed: February 29, 2000  
**U.S. Patent No. 6,972,969**  
Issued: December 6, 2005

**NOTIFICATION OF PRIOR ART  
CITATION UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.501**

A citation of prior art under 37 C.F.R. § 1.501 has been filed by the patent owner on January 12, 2006, in the above-identified patent, entitled "**IMAGE PROCESSING APPARATUS AND METHOD, AND STORAGE MEDIUM.**"

Any inquiry concerning this decision should be directed to Krista Zele whose telephone number is (571) 272-7288.

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